

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated May 15, 2003, claims 1-14 are rejected as being anticipated under 35 USC §102(b). However, for the reasons set forth hereafter, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1, 2 and 4-14 includes features which are not anticipated or taught by the cited references, taken singly as posed by the Examiner. Reconsideration is, therefore, respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors.

Claims 1-3, 6-9 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Naito. The Examiner contends that Naito discloses all of the features of Applicants' invention as set forth in these claims.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Naito is devoid of any teaching or suggestion of features of Applicants' invention so as to negate any anticipation of Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1, 2, 6-9, and 12-14.

In Naito, the contact members in the hose with built-in communication cable are annular conductors formed of metallic wire mesh mounted on mating ends of the tube connector portions. These conductors are separate members which are mounted in specially formed recesses in the mating ends of the connector so as to provide an electrical path through the joined contacts when the connector halves are joined together.

Naito differs significantly from Applicants' in several aspects. First, the annular wire mesh conductors of Naito are separate members which are not monolithically formed in the housing as is the contact member(s) of Applicants' invention as set forth in claim 1. In both aspects of Applicants' invention, the contact member or members are monolithically formed in the housing so as to be an integral part of the housing. Such contact member(s) are not separate from the housing as are the discrete conductors or contacts of Naito.

Secondly, in Applicants' invention as defined in claim 1, as well as claims 7 and 12, the contact member electrically contacts the endform when the

endform is inserted into the bore in the housing. In Naito, each contact member electrically contacts an opposite contact member and not a fluid carrying endform.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1, 2, 6-9, and 12-14 includes features which are not anticipated by Naito.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Cunningham. The Examiner contends that Cunningham discloses a fluid quick connector having all of the features of Applicants' invention as set forth in these claims.

However, for the same reasons set forth above with respect to Naito, which reach reasons are incorporated and repeated herein, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1, 2 and 4-14 includes features which are not anticipated by Cunningham.

Cunningham also teaches discrete electrical contact members mounted in two opposing connector portions which engage each other when the connector portions are brought into engagement. These discrete contact members must be mounted in specially formed recesses or other pockets in the connector members so as to be in a suitable position for engagement with the opposed contact member when the connector members are brought into engagement.

This is directly opposed to the contact member(s) of Applicants' invention as set forth in the claims which are monolithically formed on the housing. Such members are not separate from the housing and do not require special mounting provisions in the housing.

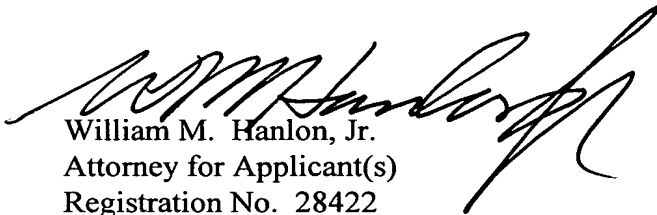
Cunningham also fails to disclose the contacts in the bore in the housing engaging a tubular endform inserted into the bore in the housing as set forth by the Applicants in claim 1 and, more specifically, in claims 7 and 12.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1, 2 and 4-13 includes features which are not anticipated or even suggested by Cunningham.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1, 2 and 4-14 includes features which are not anticipated by either cited reference. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, and 4-14 are in condition for allowance; a notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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